

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 111415Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 139

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9031

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG CVIS

SUBJECT: ARAFAT'S COMPLAINT

REF: CAIRO 9027

1. USAMA AL-BAZ TELEPHONED 1530 THIS AFTERNOON JUST AFTER I HAD RETURNED FROM SEEING OFF SECRETARY BUTZ. ON FAHMY'S INSTRUCTIONS HE TOLD ME THAT ARAFAT ARRIVED IN CAIRO FEW HOURS AGO AND HAD JUST BEEN IN TO TALK WITH THE FONMIN. ARAFAT IS REPORTEDLY GREATLY UPSET BECAUSE AMEMBASSY BEIRUT WOULD ISSUE VISAS TO ONLY FOUR PEOPLE. AL-BAZ ASSUMES THE FOUR ARE BODYGUARDS. FAHMY AGAIN URGED THAT USG CONSIDER INCREASING THE NUMBER. HE HAS ASKED ARAFAT TO PRUNE LIST, AND SAID KAMAL IS EXPECTED SHORTLY WITH A REDUCTED LIST. FAHMY HAS INSTRUCTED AL-BAZ TO SEND THIS TO US SOON AS RECEIVED. AL-BAZ ADDED FAHMY WANTS TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE GOE ATTACHES TO ALLOWING ARAFAT TO TAKE SOME ADDITIONAL PEOPLE.

2. RE TRAVEL PLANS FOR ARAFAT, AL-BAZ SAID GOE HAS AGREED TO MAKE AN EGYPTAIR AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT ARAFAT AND PARTY PROVIDED PLO PAYS COSTS. PLO HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT PRECISE PLANS FOR DEPARTURE HAVE NOT YET BEEN FIXED. BASED ON PARA 4, USUN 4893, I SUGGESTED THAT BEST ARRIVAL TIME AT JFK WOULD BE BEFORE MORNING RUSH TRAFFIC,
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I.E. ABOUT SIX A.M. AL-BAZ NOTED THAT IF GROUP DEPARTS SOME

TIME TOMORROW MORNING, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT AIRCRAFT WILL
ARRIVE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON.

3. DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE WORKED OUT LATER TODAY
DEPEND UPON VISA ISSUANCES. AL-BAZ UNDERTOOK GIVE US DETAILS
SOON AS AVAILABLE.
EILTS

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